

CLAIMS:

1. A method for a printer apparatus to provide personalized print items, the printer apparatus executing steps comprising:
  - receiving data from a portable memory device;
  - prompting an operator to select a product template resident in the printer apparatus;
  - prompting the operator to select at least one field entry from the data;
  - assembling the field entry into the product template; and
  - printing the resultant personalized print item.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of prompting the operator to select a format for the field entry prior to the step of printing the resulting personalized print item.
3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of prompting the operator to enter appropriate text prior to the step of printing the resulting personalized print item.
4. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of prompting the operator to scan an image or input an image from some other source prior to the step of printing the resulting personalized print item.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the other source is the portable memory device.
6. The method of claim 4 wherein the other source is a disk drive.
7. The method of claim 1 further comprising a earlier prior step of accessing the portable memory device.

8. A printing system apparatus for providing a personalized print item from a portable memory device, comprising:

a reader for receiving data from the portable memory device;

at least one product template stored in a memory; and

a print engine where the reader receives data which is placed into the product template to produce a result that is then printed by the print engine.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising a software application which provides a user interface upon a display interface to allow the prompting of an operator of the printing system apparatus to specify the contents of the product template.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 where the reader provides wireless transmission to the portable memory device.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 where the reader comprises an RF transponder.

12. The apparatus of claim 10 where the reader comprises an infrared transponder.

13. The apparatus of claim 9 where the reader provides the ability to read magnetic strip-encoded data.

14. The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising a scanner which can provide scanned data for placement into the product template.

15. The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising a camera which can provide image data for placement into the product template.

16. A method for a printer system to provide personalized print items, the printer system apparatus executing steps comprising:

accessing a portable memory device;

receiving data from the portable memory device;

assembling the data into a pre-stored product template found in the printer system; and

printing the resultant personalized print item.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of scanning for image data to be assembled into the product template.

18. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of photographing image data to be assembled into the product template.

19. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of prompting an operator to select a product template resident in the printer apparatus.

20. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of prompting the operator to select at least one field entry from the data.

21. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of prompting the operator to enter appropriate text prior to the step of printing the resulting personalized print item.